

The Morning Astorian

ESTABLISHED 1873

PUBLISHED BY

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

RATES.

By mail, per year \$6 00
 By mail, per month 50
 By carriers, per month 60

THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance \$1 00



WHERE GRAFT HOLDS SWAY.

The dispatch from St. Petersburg relating how one of the largest manufacturers in Russia refused to obey a requisition of the imperial government for a heavier contribution toward war expenditures in Manchuria unless he were allowed to appoint agents to see that the money was strictly applied to military purposes calls attention anew to one of the weak spots in the present system of Russian rule. The manufacturer in question took the stand that he did because at the opening of the present war he had donated one million roubles' worth of cloth for the Manchurian army, only to discover a little later that this same cloth was being sold in Moscow shops; and he refused to be made the further victim of "graft."

In consequence, the governor of Moscow ordered him to leave Russia, but before complying with this command he gave instructions that all of his factories be shut down, thus throwing some 65,000 employes out of work. At this point the imperial government intervened, and the order of banishment was revoked.

This incident is only one of a multitude of examples of the reign of "graft" in Russia that could be cited. Not many months ago a number of agents of American firms approached the Russian government for the purpose of selling the latter certain supplies that it needed. The articles offered were entirely satisfactory both in regard to quality and price, but the American agents were speedily apprised that they could not hope to "do business" unless they first put down a good round sum in the shape of blackmail. The agents accordingly cabled home to find out whether the concerns that they represented were willing thus to resort to bribery and promptly receiving an emphatic answer "No," they dropped all efforts to find a customer in the Russian government. The only competitors of the American concerns were Britons and as the latter finally succeeded in selling the Russian government the supplies that it required, the presumption is that they yielded to the demands of the Russian "grafters."

What wonder is it that the Russian army and navy are insufficient when nearly the entire service, civil and military, is corroded with corruption? What wonder is it that in spite of Russia's ample financial resources her hapless legions in Manchuria are compelled to go days without food? What wonder is it that Russia's trade is languishing when the country is filled with harpies of high and low station demanding a "rakeoff" and tribute as a condition to permission to pursue legitimate business callings? What wonder is it that Russia is seething with internal discontent when the masses of the empire, bowed to the earth with taxation, see public officials who handle public funds grow enormously rich. Men do not gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles, and the astonishing thing is that Russia, with her governmental service saturated with corruption as it is, has been able to make as much progress, both as an industrial and a military power, as she has.

That Nicholas II is fully cognizant of the extent of the reign of "graft" among the officials of his dominion is hardly open to doubt; but it is equally certain that this sort of business does not receive his sanction. The fact, however, that he seems unable to correct it shows the tremendous power that is wielded by the Russian bureaucracy; and the military reverses that Russia has met in the far east and that she may continue to meet there will not be without their compensations if they shall result in emphasizing the peril to any nation that tolerates glaring corruption in public office.

THE CALL FOR PEACE.

The unworthy and disingenuous sneer that the president's promise to call another peace congress was meant for campaign purposes only is amply refuted, says the New York Tribune. When the president's promise, or announcement, was made to the Interparliamentary Union no date for its fulfillment was set or even hinted at, and there was a general supposition that the actual issuing of the invitations might be deferred until next year. A delay of several months would not have seemed too great. But the president was more in earnest than he was on all hands credited with being. Only a month has

elapsed, and already the invitations are on their way to the powers of the world.

There seems little ground for the other criticism—that it is inopportune to call for peace in the midst of a great war. The wisest of all philosophers ages ago reminded the world that it is not the well who need a physician, but those who are sick. A peace congress now might not put a stop to the war. It would almost certainly exert a considerable influence toward ameliorating the passions that war is engendering in other nations, toward preventing the extension of hostilities among other powers and even toward lessening the horrors of the war itself. Another consideration which would seem to make it particularly timely is that some of the international issues which this war has raised are susceptible of most profitable discussion and disposition at the very moment when they are freshest in mind. The questions of contraband, the treatment of prizes, the use of mines and aerial batteries, the use of wireless telegraphy and other matters could not be studied and passed upon at any time to better advantage than now. Even if it were agreed in advance that no determination of the congress should apply to this war, which was begun before the congress was called, the object lessons of the war would be of inestimable value to the congress and would greatly facilitate the making of equitable and humane rules for future wars.

That, however, is for the nations to determine. The president makes it sufficiently plain that America, for one, is in favor of holding the congress without waiting for the return of universal peace. He does not, however, assume to impose the view upon others. He leaves it to them to indicate their various preferences as to time and place. He takes the initiative, but does not dictate. He has thus discharged his and his country's whole duty, and leaves with the powers addressed the responsibility of determining whether the opportunity he has created shall or shall not be improved. Concerning their decision there should be little doubt. A disinterested call for peace is something no nation can well afford to slight.

GENIUS SOMETIMES FLOWERS LATE.

We die younger than we ought; civilization burns wastefully the tissues of the body, and life is now so feverish that if a man at 30 has not done something worth while he despairs of achieving distinction and begins to call himself a spent hack and to philosophize, more or less cheerfully, upon his failure, says the Bulletin. One compares his progress with Napoleon's, who at 26 was a great, victorious general; with the younger Pitt's, who in his early twenties was a prime minister; with Alexander Hamilton's, eminent when still adolescent; and with the careers of other men who have attained fame, high position and great success at an early age.

But these men were out of the usual run; many others, of equal genius, flowered later in life; and some of the most famous characters were obscure until long past middle age. Laurence Sterne, for instance, was 46 when he published the first volume of "Tristram Shandy," the book which made him known. Daniel Defoe was in his late thirties before he became known even as a pamphleteer, and the first work of any merit from his pen—"Robinson Crusoe"—appeared when he was 58.

Old men have written some of the most memorable books, spoken some of the most memorable speeches and performed some of the most memorable deeds in history. Russell, Palmerston, Disraeli and Gladstone, four of the greatest English leaders in politics during the nineteenth century, were active after 70. Gladstone, especially, retained his powers of mind and body until long after 80. Bismarck, at 80, was a powerful figure in the German empire.

Not only the mind but also the body ought to last, in vigor, until 70 or 80. It is not natural to break down, physically and mentally, in the fifties as so many do. Plenty of exercise, plenty of fresh air and plenty of hard work, coupled with temperance in eating and drinking, and intelligent use of the powers, will preserve a man almost unimpaired until what we call a ripe old age.

There are 1000 American teachers in the Philippines centered in 338 larger towns out of the 934 towns in the entire archipelago. Two thousand primary schools are in operation, and they employ the service of 3000 native teachers. The inhabitants there are the only oriental people who have accepted Christianity and shown aspirations toward civil liberty. It is a good material for western educational methods to work on, shows good progress so far and with better still in prospect as the years go by.

Every voter in Clatsop county should cast his ballot for presidential electors. Roosevelt will carry Oregon by about 27,000 majority, but this should not cause republican apathy or democratic indifference. Nor should socialists and prohibitionists fail to vote on this account. Let us make a good showing for Clatsop county by polling 3000 votes. Clatsop is one of the smallest counties in area in Oregon and must get out a full vote to make a good comparative showing.

That Gans should have invited the foul which gave him victory over Mr. James Britt is not surprising in view of the color of the aforesaid Gans.

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Notice of Primary Election. Notice is hereby given that a primary election for the republican party will be held in the city of Astoria, Oregon, Saturday, November 5, 1904, between the hours of 12 m. and 5 p. m. of said day, for the purpose of electing thirty-six (36) delegates to a republican city convention, hereinafter designated, which said delegates are apportioned as follows, to-wit:

First Ward—12 delegates.
 Second Ward—12 delegates.
 Third Ward—12 delegates.
 The following polling places and judges for said primary election have been selected:

First Ward—Polling place, court-house; Judges of election, S. G. Trullinger, P. J. Goodman, J. A. Montgomery.
 Second Ward—Polling place, office of C. E. Foster, 694 Commercial street; Judges of election, James W. Welch, C. E. Foster and B. A. Elgner.
 Third Ward—Polling place, office of Astoria Box Company; Judges of election, Gust Holmes, Iver Anderson, W. T. Scholfield.
 Furthermore, notice is hereby given that a republican city convention will be held at the court house in the city of Astoria, Oregon, on Wednesday, November 9, 1904, at the hour of 2 p. m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following city offices to be elected at the city election on Wednesday, December 14, 1904:

One city attorney, for a term of two years.
 One councilman from the Second ward, for a term of three years.
 One councilman from the Third ward, for a term of three years.
 By order of the republican city central committee,
 HARRISON ALLEN, Chairman.
 CHAS. H. ABERCROMBIE, Sec.

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